

JLARC Meeting
November 7, 2022 – MINUTES

JLARC Members Present:

Senator Janet Howell, Chair; Delegate Robert E. Orrock, Vice Chair; Senator Mamie E. Locke; Senator Jeremy S. McPike; Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr.; Senator Lionel Spruill, Sr.; Delegate Terry L. Austin; Delegate Kathy J. Byron; Delegate Betsy B. Carr; Delegate Barry D. Knight; Delegate Kenneth R. Plum; Delegate R. Lee Ware; Delegate Tony Wilt; and Staci Henshaw, Auditor of Public Accounts.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Senator Howell, who welcomed the Commission members and introduced Mr. Hal Greer, JLARC director, who gave an overview of the meeting. Chair Howell then recognized Senator Jeremy McPike, Chair of the study topic selection subcommittee.

Topic Selection Subcommittee Report

Senator McPike gave a brief report on the potential topics discussed and the study recommendations being brought forward for the commission to vote on for 2023. Following his briefing, the Commission members voted and approved the following six studies: public safety occupation eligibility for enhanced retirement; state-operated inpatient psychiatric hospitals; effectiveness of self-sufficiency programs; availability and affordability of childcare; adequacy and availability of legal representation for indigent defendants and commonwealth's attorney staffing; supply of qualified individuals to fill K-12 teaching positions; and the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (Go Virginia) Program.

Pandemic Impact on K-12 Public Education

Following, Mr. Hal Greer gave an overview of the meeting agenda and introduced Mr. Justin Brown, who gave an overview of the Pandemic Impact on K-12 Public Education report. Mr. Brown then introduced Mr. Joe McMahon, who presented the report to the Commission. During and following the presentation, there were several questions from Commission members. Mr. McMahon then introduced Ms. Aimee Rogstad Guidera, secretary of education, who addressed the Commission. Following, there were several questions from Commission members.

Higher Education Financial Aid Grant Programs and Awards

Mr. Greer gave an overview of the study, then introduced Ms. Lauren Axselle, who presented the report to the Commission. During the presentation, Ms. Axselle addressed questions from Commission members. Ms. Axselle then introduced Mr. Peter Blake, director, SCHEV, who spoke to the Commission.

Defined Benefit 529 Surplus Funds

Mr. Greer gave an overview of the report, then introduced Mr. Jamie Bitz, who presented the report. Mr. Bitz then introduced Senator Walter Stosch, who addressed the Commission. Following, there were questions from Commission members.

Adjournment

Mr. Greer announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2022. There being no further business, Senator Howell, Chair, adjourned the Commission at 12:33 p.m.

Approved by: Hal E. Greer
Hal E. Greer, JLARC Director

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